GUIDANCE & FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES NATURALIZATION TEST GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

> What is the United States Naturalization Test graduation requirement?

 Beginning with the Class of 2025, Oklahoma students must take a 100 question test using the questions from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website. The law requires that students get at least 60 of the 100 questions correct in order to graduate. <u>See House Bill 2030 (2021)</u>.

Where is the United States Naturalization Test located?

- The test can be found online on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website.
- The questions and answers for the naturalization test are available at: <u>USCIS Civics</u> (<u>History and Government</u>) <u>Questions for the Naturalization Test.</u>

When should the United States Naturalization Test be administered to students?

School districts can offer the test as early as eighth (8th) grade and must offer the
test at least once per school year. While a school district may determine when to
schedule its annual administration of the naturalization test, retake opportunities
must be offered to students upon request. (See below.)

Can students retake the test?

Yes, a student can retake the test as many times as they need to, at no cost to the student, in order to correctly answer 60 out of 100 questions. The statute provides that "any student may retake the exam upon request, and as often as desired, until earning a passing score." (70 O.S. § 11-103.6(F)(2))

Does every student have to pass the naturalization test to graduate?

- The naturalization test is a graduation requirement set by the Oklahoma Legislature. The law states that "a passing score shall be 60 out of 100 questions." If a student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), the IEP team may determine accommodations the student might need. A student with a Section 504 Plan in place must also be provided any accommodations they usually receive.
- A student with disabilities whose IEP indicates that the student is to be assessed with alternate achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP) shall be exempt from the naturalization test for graduation eligibility purposes. (70 O.S. § 11-103.6(F)(3))

Must schools provide accommodations for students with limited English proficiency?

Students may take the test in their language of choice. A paper test will be available in Spanish, and school districts will be expected to provide any oral and/or written translation services necessary to ensure speakers of all other languages may successfully complete the requirement. The USCIS website has resources in Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

How should a school district document that students have passed the United States Naturalization Test?

 While school districts may determine how best to track which students have passed the naturalization test for their own records, a school district should document each student's passage of the test on their individual academic transcript.

What resources are available to support students in passing the United States Naturalization Test?

- The <u>Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies</u> include learning goals that align with the questions on the United States Naturalization Test. If students are provided learning experiences aligned to the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Pre-Kindergarten through grade 8, they will be prepared for the test.
- There are additional resources on the USCIS <u>website</u>, which may be of assistance in planning and implementation.
- In addition to receiving instruction consistent with the Oklahoma Academic Standards at each grade level, each student enrolled in the grade(s) during which the school district administers the naturalization test should be provided with access to the USCIS "Civics (History and Government) Questions for the Naturalization Test" at least thirty (30) days prior to the test for study purposes. If a school district provides its students access to a digitally stored version of the study document, a student who is not able to access the document electronically should be provided a paper copy at no cost to the student.

If a student does not pass the naturalization test, will they still be allowed to graduate?

The law requires that students get at least 60 of the 100 questions correct on the naturalization test in order to graduate. (HB2030) The law further provides that "any student may retake the exam upon request, and as often as desired, until earning a passing score." (70 O.S. § 11-103.6(F)(2))

Are students who move into the state their senior year required to pass the naturalization test to graduate?

State regulations provide that "District boards of education can make exceptions to state high school graduation curriculum requirements for students who move to this state from another state after their junior year of high school," if Oklahoma's specific graduation requirements are different from their previous school and would cause the student to graduate late.

(Oklahoma Administrative Code <u>Section 210:35-9-31(g)(4)(A))</u>

